

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXVII. No. 45

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—ITALIAN OPERA—
MAIOLINI AT THE OPERA.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE STRANGER—HOBBS.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—THE STRANGER—HOBBS.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—THE WONDER.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DEVIL'S DUCAT—
DICK, THE NEGRO—IRLAND AS IT IS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS.

RAHNUMA'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—CON-
STANTLY IMPROVING, WALLACE, &c., at all hours—
OPENING, at 10 o'clock.BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad-
way.—OPENING at 8 o'clock.HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Seymour Institute, No. 602
Broadway.—STYRIAN SONGS, DANCERS, &c.MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—SONGS,
DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—HOLLYDAY IN IRELAND.CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 555 Broadway.—SONGS,
DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MAGNOLIA, THE NIGHT OWL.GAITEIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING
ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLETS, PANTOMIMES, FANCIES, &c.AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BAL-
LETS, PANTOMIMES, &c.—FANTASIES.CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—
BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—REQUAUS.PARISIAN CARNET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—
Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BURLESQUES
SONGS, DANCES, &c.IRVING HALL, Irving place.—GEO. SCHWENKER'S VOCAL
AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT.

New York, Saturday, February 15, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The brilliant success of the Union arms at Roanoke Island forms the principal point of our news to-day. We give in the minutest detail the entire history of the expedition of General Burnside, together with a highly graphic account of the affair at Roanoke Island, accompanied by two maps, which show the whole topography of the country in that vicinity. Our account to-day occupies no less than eighteen columns of our space.

In importance this victory in the waters of Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds has not been equalled by anything which our armies have yet achieved, and taken in connection with the victory in Tennessee, at Fort Henry, the surrounding of Fort Donelson, and the evacuation of Springfield, Mo., by the rebels—below referred to more particularly—all of which have been accomplished within a few days, the affair at Roanoke Island acquires a double value.

The battle was a desperate one; but from the beginning, when our troops were landed at Ashly's Harbor, on Friday afternoon, the 7th instant, success seemed to attend them. The rebels were entrenched in the centre of the island, but by the gallantry of our men they were dislodged at the point of the bayonet, and driven towards the northern end of the island, where those who were not killed or wounded surrendered. Our loss is said to be about fifty killed—thirty of the army and twenty of the naval force. Our wounded number about one hundred and forty. We refer our readers to the detailed account in our columns to-day for complete information of this most successful achievement, and to the official despatch of General Burnside, which was received by General McClellan yesterday evening. General Burnside's despatch is short, soldierly and comprehensive. He states in a few words that the army has gained a decisive victory, that they have captured six forts, forty guns, over two thousand prisoners, and three thousand small arms. Among the prisoners was Captain O. Jennings Wise, who soon expired from wounds received while attempting to escape in a small boat. General Burnside says that the men, both soldiers and sailors, fought most gallantly, and deserve all praise for the manner in which they endured the hardships of a desperate fight in swamps and thickets. He does all honor to General Foster, Reno and Parks, to whose bravery the glory of the day is due. He further announces that Commodore Goldsborough has been entirely successful in his attack on Elizabeth City and the rebel fleet of gunboats. Commodore Goldsborough tells his own story concisely in our columns to-day.

A despatch from the camp in front of Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland river, dated on the 13th inst., informs us of the important fact that the fort was completely beleaguered by Generals Grant, Smith and McClernand, who surround it with an army of nearly 40,000 men. They commenced the bombardment on Wednesday, and the fight raged with great vigor on both sides throughout the day, and will be continued until the rebels either are driven out or surrender. There are said to be eleven thousand men in the fort, together with Generals Pillow, Floyd, Johnston and Buckner. Our gunboats were acting gallantly. The account we give to-day shows that the action was a formidable one, and the firing was very destructive. Our troops made several charges on the intrenchments, reaching sometimes within a very short distance of them.

An expedition under Colonel Riggins, of General Grant's staff, advanced as far as the railroad bridge on the 11th inst., and released the rebel steamer Evansport which was lying against one of the piers. Proceeding to the Big Sandy river, the expedition seized contraband goods valued at \$75,000, including tobacco, wheat and corn.

The rebel papers are most desponding in their comments upon the state of affairs in Tennessee and the Union feeling existing there, the extent of which they are compelled to admit. They almost acknowledge that Tennessee is now lost to the rebel cause.

Our news from Missouri brings us intelligence of another splendid success. An official despatch was received by General McClellan yesterday from General Halleck announcing that the rebel General Price, with his whole army, evacuated Springfield on Wednesday night upon the approach of our troops towards Wilson's creek. Our cavalry pursued them, while the main body of our army took possession of the town and hoisted the "old flag" on the Court House. A large

amount of stores and equipage fell into our hands. The details of this important victory have not yet reached us. The result of it, however, renders Missouri almost clear of the armed hosts of the rebels.

We have received the official despatches forwarded to the Navy Department detailing the course of Commodore Dupont's expedition in the vicinity of Port Royal; but the facts contained therein have all been published before.

Upon the whole we can present our readers with a satisfactory record to-day of our army and navy movements.

The President has issued an order, through the Secretary of War, releasing all political prisoners now in the custody of the military authorities in every quarter, upon giving their parole to afford no aid to the enemies of the government—spies alone excepted. The President states that, as the rebellion is now manifestly on the decline, the severe measures resorted to in the beginning are no longer necessary.

CONGRESS.

An amendment to the Army bill was adopted by the Senate yesterday, giving the bounty allowed to soldiers, in case of death, to the relatives of the deceased. A resolution was also passed authorizing and requesting the President to dismiss from the army or navy such officers as, in his judgment, were unsuited to the service, or when the service would be benefited by such dismissal. In the House the Naval Appropriation bill was passed, with an amendment appropriating fifteen million dollars for building additional gunboats, as also one million for an ordnance foundry at Washington. The Senate's amendment to the bill for the suppression of the coolie trade was concurred in by the House. Mr. Wilcox, who had purged himself of contempt to the House by answering the question propounded by the committee, was ordered to be discharged from custody. Both bodies have adjourned over until Monday.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Much routine business was transacted in the Legislature yesterday, but nothing of special importance. A motion to lay the excise question on the table was defeated, after an amendment had been offered instructing the committee to report a graduating scale for the sale of liquors by license, and to provide for such restrictions as may best subserve morality and temperance. Among the petitions presented was one for the repeal of the law exempting ministers of the gospel from taxation.

The steamship Ariel arrived here yesterday from Aspinwall, with \$614,146 in specie. The news from Central America is unimportant.

The United States gunboat Massachusetts, Commodore Melancton Smith, arrived at this port last at half-past nine o'clock, from Ship Island. The Massachusetts has on board the cargo of prize schooner J. W. Wilder, captured by the steamer R. R. Cuyler, consisting of coffee, lead, leather, &c., and likewise the cargo of schooner Gypsy, captured by steamer New London, consisting of 105 bales of cotton.

The United States gunboat Vixen, Lieutenant Commanding W. S. Jones, from Port Royal 10th inst., arrived at this port yesterday. She brings no news.

Our files from Bermuda, dated on the 28th and 29th ultimo, contain an account of the embarkation of Mason and Sidel on board the La Plata mail steamship, at St. Thomas, from the British war vessel Rinaldo. It is said that the Rinaldo was boarded in the port by an officer from a United States ship-of-war—name not given—who inquired if it were probable our government would surrender the rebel agents. Mason and Sidel stood, it is said, in his sight, and the British officer to whom he addressed the question replied by saying, "There are Messrs. Mason and Sidel." It is alleged that the American officer went down the side and jumped into his boat in haste. The West India division of the British North American fleet was very active in its movements.

The Bermuda Royal Gazette of the 28th of January says:—"We are sorry to learn that letters have been received here from Hayti, via St. Thomas, mentioning that most of the immigrants from Bermuda to that island had been ill of fever, and that the following persons had died, viz—Messrs. William Tucker, Albert Bassen and Theophilus Robinson.

The bark Thomas Dallett arrived at Philadelphia yesterday from Venezuela. She reports business dull and the country in great commotion. General Paez was at the capital (Caracas) in command of the national land forces, and was about proceeding to meet the insurgents, and was determined to show no quarter, in order to establish law and order on a basis firmer than has ever existed heretofore.

The ship Stephen Glover arrived at Boston yesterday from Calcutta, with upwards of 8,000 bags of saltpetre.

The British steamship St. George, Captain Willey, from Liverpool, arrived yesterday morning, having on freight one thousand nine hundred and three bales of American and sixty-three bales of East India cotton.

A very patient and enduring meeting of the Board of Aldermen listened last evening, for more than one hour, to a report, read by Alderman Dayton, from the Committee on the Mayor's Message.

Mr. Dayton went elaborately into the laws of the city of New York, and severely commented upon the reorganization of the Board of Aldermen, as proposed by Mayor Opdyke, which he pronounced to be a mockery and a fraud, and calculated to bring the elective franchise into contempt and disrespect. The workmen on the Central Park were engaged during the whole of yesterday in cleaning and planing the ice, which was in good condition; and with prospects of frost last evening, the ball will doubtless be up to-day.

The cotton market yesterday was irregular, while the sales embraced about 600 bales upon the basis chiefly of 25c. a bale, for middling to strict middling uplands. Pressed sales were made under these figures, and in one case of this kind it was reported as low as 22c. a bale, while some lots of middling uplands were reported at 27c., and little was to be had under the above figures.

Flour was in some better request, and prices advanced 5c. per bbl., with more doing. Wheat was irregular and sales limited. Corn was steady, with a fair demand from the trade, with sales of Western mixed at 65c. a bushel. Pork was rather firmer, especially for old mess, which was sold at \$12 25 a \$12 42 1/2; new sold at \$12 57 1/2; a \$12 12 1/2, and new prime at \$9 50. Sugars were steady, with sales of about 400 hhds. Cuban and 90 boxes. Coffee was in fair request; sales of 1,500 bags were made at 17c. Freight was unchanged and engagements fair.

UNION FEELING IN THE SOUTH.—REBEL ADVERTISEMENTS.—Amongst the various causes assigned by the rebel organs for the capture of Roanoke Island by the Unionists is that of disaffection and treachery on the part of the North Carolina regiments. Now, there is nothing to show that there is any ground for this assertion. The rebels surrendered because they were physically impossible, in view of the odds against them, that they could do otherwise. The fact, however, that their organs venture to cast this imputation upon the men of North Carolina is a significant one. It proves that they have serious doubts of the loyalty of the people of that State to their bogus government, and anticipate its speedy loss to the Southern confederacy. It is curious enough that in the same sheet in which this statement appears there is a frank admission of the existence of a strong Union feeling on the banks of the Tennessee

river, as described in the accounts of the expedition of Commander Phelps to Florence. By and by we will discover that this feeling is infinitely more wide spread and deeply rooted than we had any reason to suppose.

The Brilliant Victories for the Union.

The authentic reports, direct from the Burnside expedition, which we republish this morning, of the victory of Roanoke Island, will be found materially different, in many respects, from the confused, conjectural and exaggerated accounts of the panic stricken rebels, and particularly in regard to the killed and wounded on both sides. The rebels gave us a desperate and sanguinary struggle, involving losses on their side of three hundred killed and a thousand wounded, to a thousand killed on our side; whereas, from the actual observation of these casualties, it appears that the Union loss in killed was less than fifty, and our wounded about one hundred and forty.

These returns completely dissipate the highly colored reports made by the rebels of their desperate hand to hand fighting to maintain their position, and clearly show that, on finding themselves in the immediate presence of our land force on the island, they first attempted to make their escape, but discovering that all means of escape were cut off, they surrendered at discretion. Meantime, it appears the rebel gunboats having had a taste of the hailstorm from Commodore Goldsborough's flotilla, had abandoned the island to its fate and had hurried up the Sound to Elizabeth City, where, on the fourth day after the first operations against the island, they were overhauled and destroyed.

Without further repetition of the details of these successful Union movements on the land and water, we may say, without qualification, that the results place all the seaboard defence of North Carolina, all the cities, towns and villages of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and the navigable rivers emptying into them, the cities of Beaufort and Wilmington, and the most important railroads of the State, completely at the mercy of the Burnside expedition. In fact, to express our advantages already gained in North Carolina in a very few words, we may say that they secure to us the speedy restoration of the State to the Union. Our new style of gunboats, with their tremendous engines of destruction, in the East and in the West, have proved their capabilities to do almost anything required of them. In their efficiency we have the secret of our sure defence even against a hostile European coalition. At the same time we discover, in the victories of our land forces since the opening of the new year, that they have secured that practical training and discipline which is equal to a charge into a thick forest, the fording of difficult swamps, and the storming of masked batteries "in the face of the enemy's fire."

We have, in addition to the above, the gratifying news from Missouri that that mysterious Jack-o'-lantern of secession—here to-day and gone to-morrow—the rebel General Price, has again taken to his heels, and is off for parts unknown. Our forces under General Curtis have reconquered Springfield and have thus fallen into the possession of a considerable amount of military stores, left behind by the retreating enemy. It is thus very evident that Price was compelled to leave in a great hurry, and we apprehend that, having once more resolved upon a trial of speed instead of a trial of battle, he will not be again overtaken this side of Arkansas. We think that Missouri may be set down as redeemed, that the southwestern corner of Kentucky is very near the hour of its deliverance, and that with its recovery Tennessee will fall into line and our gunboats will move on down to New Orleans.

Let the great rebel camp of Manassas, meantime, be patient; for it will discover before long that it is not excluded from the aggressive combinations of General McClellan.

OUR IRON WALLS.—THE GUNBOAT BRANCH OF OUR NAVAL SERVICE.—The result of Commodore Foote's brilliant operations against Fort Henry has been of more advantage to us than the mere capture of that important strategic point. It has demonstrated beyond all question the superiority of iron plated over every other description of war vessel, and has shown, besides, the power of gunboats thus clad to reduce the strongest land fortifications. Had the vessels that made this attack on Fort Henry been unprotected by iron, there is no doubt that every one of them would have been sunk by the tremendous fire of the rebel batteries. The number of indentations made in the iron coating of their hulls by the heavy balls discharged by the latter prove that they must have speedily succumbed.

Nearly all these boats were old river steamers, and, of course, were neither as scientifically modelled nor as strong as if they had been specially built for the purpose. We may judge from their performance on this occasion what the efficiency of the new gunboats will be which are about to be constructed under the recent act of Congress. To their prompt reduction of the rebel fort we owe the equally prompt passage of that measure, which but for it would have dragged on to the end of the session. We shall probably also owe to the casualty that befell the Essex some important improvements in the new vessels, which will place them beyond all possibility of a similar disaster.

Now that the invulnerability of iron clad hulls is established, the attention of Congress should be at once directed to the defence of our ports and harbors by floating batteries similarly constructed. Although the Stevens battery has not turned out what was expected, there are several features connected with it that might be profitably improved upon. The subject is one of pressing importance, and we are glad to see that the House yesterday appropriated \$15,000,000 additional for more gunboats. It is not when a foreign war threatens us that we should begin to think of the means of defence.

BRILLIANT OPERATIONS OF OUR NAVY.—The operations of our navy have been attended with brilliant success in almost every engagement since the beginning of the war. Hatteras, Port Royal, Roanoke and Fort Henry have fallen before the irresistible fire of our gunboats. The most complete victory of all is that at Roanoke Island, where the whole force of the enemy were killed or captured. But the most valuable in its consequences is that in which the main body escaped and only a few artillerymen were taken. We allude to the capture of Fort Henry, which, in a strategic point of view, is of the highest importance, opening up not only Tennessee, but Alabama and the whole South to our arms. The rebels have, hitherto, vaunted of the superiority of their generals; but they have been outgeneralled as well as whipped by our navy at Hatteras, at Fort Henry and at Roanoke. Bowling Green is rendered untenable by the victory at Fort Henry, and must be abandoned, if it has not been already evacuated. Columbus must soon share the same fate. Good generalship would have retreated in time from Roanoke Island with so small a force, or it would have reinforced the island with an army sufficient to hold it. Fort Henry was of more importance to the rebels than Bowling Green, and good generalship would have suggested that both it and Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland, should have been made impregnable and manned with a powerful force. We expect every hour to hear of the capture of Donelson by our gunboats. It is evident the rebels have no generals; our navy is outmanoeuvring them completely.

So much for the importance of that arm of the service and the necessity of sustaining it in full strength. The despatches of the naval commanders are in keeping with the character of the work they have performed. They are remarkable alike for their brevity, dignity and modesty—no rhodomontade about them. The events of this war are demonstrating that the quality of our navy has not deteriorated by a long interval of peace, but that it deserves to be the pride of the nation as much now as it ever has been.

THE FINAL PASSAGE OF THE DEMAND NOTE BILL BY THE SENATE.—The Demand Note bill has come from the Senate with the legal tender clause and the clause for the payment of interest in specie. These two important features of the bill have been retained, and we have no doubt that the House of Representatives will accept the amendments of the Senate, and that the bill will very soon become a law. The payment of the interest in gold cannot reasonably be objected to when the bill makes the notes a legal tender. The specie payment of the interest is the best feature of the bill. The amendment of Mr. Simmons, adopted by the Senate, is not of much account, and its final adoption or rejection is of little consequence. With or without this amendment the bill renders the notes about as good as gold—better secured than the notes of the Bank of England, if the Tax bill be only brought forward immediately and passed into a law. The annual productions of the country are worth \$1,900,000,000 (nineteen hundred millions of dollars); to say nothing of the accumulated property, worth sixteen thousand millions. By a proper tax bill those productions and that property will be pledged as security for the notes; and what other paper money in the world has as good a basis as that? There ought to be no depreciation, and there cannot be unless with great mismanagement on the part of the government or its agents. Let the Tax bill be produced.

MID THE GREAT ENEMY.—We have to call the attention of the "Onward to Richmond" shriekers, who have been impatiently urging the advance of General McClellan to the condition of the streets of the city of New York, and ask them, when these are flooded with slush ankle deep, and blocked up with all manner of icy, snowy and other obstructions, what must be the state of the roads in Virginia. If in the very heart of our civilization—the commercial metropolis of the country—it is a perilous undertaking to cross Broadway, and a difficult thing for our ordinary wheeled traffic to circulate, in spite of an expensive street cleaning contract, we can easily imagine how our heavy artillery and ammunition wagons would get through the deep mud of the yielding Virginia soil, and how proudly our infantry columns would march when they had to contend against the double enemy, mud and the rebels. Let the agitators in question take a sober view of the situation, and be satisfied to let well enough alone.

THE RECENT UNION VICTORIES.—Within the last few weeks three different branches of our government have achieved great victories. The army has gained the brilliant victory at Somerset, has cleared the rebels out of Missouri and has captured the rebel strongholds upon Roanoke Island. The navy, besides capturing several valuable prizes, has taken Fort Henry, made a splendid excursion up the Tennessee river, destroyed the rebel fleet in Pamlico Sound, assisted to reduce Roanoke Island and captured Elizabeth City and Edenton. Meanwhile the administrative department of our government has succeeded in passing the Treasury Note bill through both houses of Congress; and this bill, which makes the government money a legal tender, necessitates the payment of the interest on government bonds in specie, and provides for a sinking fund, is as great a victory, in a financial point of view, as those gained by the army and navy.

But the victories to come promise to rival any here recorded. We shall soon hear more good news of Buell, at Bowling Green; from Thomas, at Knoxville; from Halleck, at Fort Donelson; from Sherman, at Savannah, and from Burnside, in North Carolina. Our navy will shortly report more prizes, and is designed to aid our land forces in the operations in prospect, and to accomplish valuable service in the Gulf of Mexico. In Congress we anticipate the passage of the taxation, the banking and the bankruptcy bills. The prospect is bright now for the Union cause, and rebellion can find no comfort either in the past, present or future.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND FOREMEN.—Last evening a special meeting of the above Board was held at Firemen's Hall, Chief Engineer John Decker in the chair. The meeting was called to make arrangements for the funeral of the late Thomas Morgan, a member of Engine Company No. 6, who was killed on Thursday afternoon, while proceeding to the fire in Pearl street. A series of resolutions were presented by Assistant Engineer Jacobs, complimentary to the deceased, which were unanimously adopted; and it was resolved that the Department turn out in a body to attend the funeral of the deceased, on Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, and that the fire bells be tolled while the funeral cortege is proceeding to the City Hall. Engine Company No. 8 was selected to carry the fire department banner. The remains of the deceased will be buried in the Firemen's Burial Ground at Greenwood Cemetery.

IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE.

Attack of Fort Donelson by the Union Forces.

Progress of the First Day's Bombardment.

Gallant Conduct of Our Troops Under Heavy Fire.

The Rebel Fortification and Camps Surrounded.

&c. &c. &c.

The Union Troops En Route to Fort Donelson.

Chicago, Feb. 14, 1862.

Capt. Willard, of the Chicago Light Artillery, left Fort Henry day before yesterday, at half past ten o'clock, and reached this city to-day. From him we learn that the artillery left Fort Henry for Fort Donelson between three and four o'clock on the morning of the 12th, with six regiments of infantry.

Gen. Grant and staff and body guard left at ten o'clock the same day. The rear guard left at two P. M. The whole force was 40,000 men, with twenty-seven pieces of light artillery.

At four o'clock on the morning of the same day eleven regiments left Paducah, under convoy of the gunboats, to go up the Cumberland river—making the whole force fifty thousand men. The gunboats expected to reach Fort Donelson at seven o'clock yesterday.

It was designed to attack Fort Donelson with the whole force yesterday afternoon.

The Attack on the Rebel Fort Donelson.

Chicago, Feb. 14, 1862.

A special despatch to the Chicago Tribune says:—

CAMP ON THE FIELD, NEAR FORT DONELSON, Feb. 13—12:30.

Fort Donelson is invested by our troops. Our lines are formed from right to left and from north to south, nearly surrounding the fort. A heavy cannonading and skirmishing have been going on since half past seven o'clock this morning, but, owing to the extent of our line of action, little can be learned of the result. I fear, however, that the Captain of Company I, Seventh Illinois regiment, has been killed.

General McClernand's division is operating on the right wing, and General Smith on the left. We have had but one gunboat to play upon the fort until just within the last half hour, since when the other gunboats have been firing on the fort.

The force estimated to be within the breastworks, from the best information, is about 15,000. No reinforcements can arrive, as all communication is cut off. It is now thought that their last redoubt has fallen into our hands.

All the officers are acting with great valor, exhibiting a fearlessness highly creditable to our Western army. General Grant and staff have been riding along the lines all the morning, regardless of the grape-shot that is being showered in every direction.

REAR O'CLOCK P. M.

The cannonading and skirmishing has continued briskly all day, but has been lately discontinued. A considerable number have been wounded on both sides. The Twenty-fifth Indiana, which rushed boldly up to the intrenchments, had during the day forty of their men wounded, all slightly. The Seventh Illinois and Seventh Iowa, who have been close to the enemy's fire, have lost some men. Among the killed is Captain Wardell, of Company I, Seventh Illinois; and Colonel Morrison, of the Forty-ninth Illinois, is wounded.

Bergh's sharpshooters have done good service. They kept several of the enemy's guns idle by picking off the cannoneers as fast as they appeared at the guns.

Captain Birk, with a company of cavalry, went around to the left bank of the river this afternoon, and reports that the gunboat Carondelet received a ten inch ball but did not injure the boat materially. Captain Walker, of the Carondelet, says he has dismounted three of the rebel river guns. The other gunboats had not arrived up to six o'clock in the evening.

The rebels' rifle shots and grape have been flying thick and fast about here all day. Some six shots struck around General Grant and his staff this afternoon while they were riding along the lines. One bullet hit one of the horses of the body guard near by.

The fort will be stormed in two days if not surrendered before that time. Our men have driven back the enemy in every instance.

Generals Pillow, Floyd, Johnston and Buckner are said to be here.

One company has been within seventy-five yards of the enemy's intrenchments.

St. Louis, Feb. 14, 1862.

The Democrat's special Cairo correspondent says the fight at Fort Donelson began at nine A. M. yesterday, and during the day the rebels were driven out of the fort three times, and forced back again by Gen. Grant.

The gunboat Carondelet had been struck but twice up to noon yesterday.

A battery of five pieces, opposite the river, opened on her during her approach to the fort. The steamer Alpi has arrived here with the wounded from the Carondelet. Some of them are seriously hurt by splinters. The Alpi met Commodore Foote thirty miles below Donelson, with gunboats Louisville, Conestoga, Tyler, St. Louis and Pittsburg, and towed the latter to within twenty-five miles of the fort, where she left them at three o'clock this morning.

A Cairo special to the Democrat says that Capt. Norton, from Fort Henry yesterday noon, reports no fight had taken place up to that time, but firing was heard, which seemed to be on the Cumberland river, about ten miles below Fort Donelson. Beauregard and John Bell are said to be at Donelson. About \$100,000 worth of tobacco reached here from Tennessee river. A foraging party, which left Bird's Point yesterday, brought in several thousand bushels of corn, taken from Lieutenant Colonel Swank, of the rebel artillery.

Special despatches to the Republican, dated Fort Donelson last night, say that up to that time our loss was about twenty killed and two hundred and fifty wounded. The right wing of our army rested within sixty yards, or one of the rebel redoubt, the enemy having been driven one mile. Twenty rebels had been killed in skirmishes. Company G, Bergh's Sharpshooters, Capt. Cutler, got within seventy-five yards of a rebel battery, and completely silenced it during the entire afternoon, by killing every man who attempted to work the guns.

A desperate advance was made on one of the redoubts by the Seventeenth and Forty-ninth Illinois, under Col. Morrison, of the latter regiment. They made two gallant charges, getting close to the enemy's breastworks, but were obliged to retire in both instances under a heavy cross-fire of artillery and infantry. Both regiments suffered considerably. Col. Morrison was severely wounded while very near the enemy's lines. There were great quantities of brush piled before the breastworks, which it was

impossible to penetrate. Captain Brohan, of the Forty-ninth Illinois, was killed. The loss of both regiments was about one hundred killed and wounded.

A heavy rain set in to night, which will try the men severely, they having no tents, and in many cases, owing to their position, not being able to build fires.

Colonel Ogilby says, "We came here to take that fort, and we don't intend to leave until we do it."

General Grant Appointed to Command the Army in West Tennessee.

St. Louis, Feb. 14, 1862.

General Halleck has assigned General Grant to the command of the District of West Tennessee, and General Sherman to the District of Cairo. Commanders of districts, divisions, brigades, and posts, are directed to have an immediate inspection of all their troops for the discovery of stolen and contraband property and fugitive slaves. General Order No. 8, issued in 1861, will be strictly enforced, and any officer who has permitted it to be violated by his command will be arrested, tried for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders.

The Tennessee River Expedition.

Four Henry, Feb. 12, 1862.

An expedition has just returned from up the Tennessee. Colonel John Ruggin, of General Grant's staff, in command of a detachment of Birge's Sharpshooters, Company A, of Edgar county, Captain Campbell, and Company D, of Rock Island county, Captain Conklin, went up the river on the steamer Illinois, as far as the railroad bridge. After getting the rebel gunboat Eastport off the pier of the bridge, where she was fast, the steamer dropped down to the mouth of the Big Sandy, and took on contraband goods at that place, and at Paris landing some seventy-five thousand dollars worth of contraband goods, which are all here at the mouth of the Big Sandy.

We found the tents and camp equipage of the troops that left Fort Henry. We took 200 hogheads of tobacco, 2,500 bushels of wheat, besides a large quantity of corn and plug tobacco. The troops have moved, and Fort Donelson will be ours to-morrow.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

ANOTHER SPLENDID SUCCESS.

Retreat of the Rebels from Springfield.

Capture of a Large Amount of Stores and Equipage.

The Official Announcement of Gen. Halleck.

&c. &c. &c.

St. Louis, Feb. 14, 1862.

The following despatch was forwarded from headquarters this morning to General McClellan, at Washington:—The flag of the Union floats over the Court House in Springfield. The enemy retreated after a short engagement, leaving a large amount of stores and equipage, which was captured by General Curtis. Our cavalry are in close pursuit.

H. W. HALLECK.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Feb. 13.

Via Bear Creek, Feb. 14, 1862.

Our troops are in Springfield.

The enemy retreated last night with great haste towards Ozark and Wilson's creek, without accepting battle.

A special despatch to the St. Louis Democrat, dated Springfield, Mo., 13th, via Bear Creek, to-day, says:—